



AAP-CA3 Climate Change & Health  
San Diego Pediatricians for Clean Air

**AAP-CA3 Committee Co-Chairs:**  
Vi Thuy Nguyen MD  
Melissa Campbell DO MPH

**SDPCA Co-Directors:**  
Sabrina Perrino MD  
Wayne Mai, UCSD 24  
[sdpediatriciansforcleanair.com](http://sdpediatriciansforcleanair.com)

**MISSION STATEMENT**  
AAP-CA3 Climate Change and Health Committee. Our mission is to simultaneously promote the health of both San Diego's children and its ecosystems by empowering children through education and outreach to protect their environmental resources and in turn improve their own physical and mental health. We support measures that combat climate change & promote a healthier environment for our children.

## Dec 2024 NEWSLETTER

# AAP-CA3 Climate Change & Health San Diego Pediatricians for Clean Air

### General Comments

Happy December to our amazing membership! Congratulations to our own Co-Chair Melissa Campbell DO, MPH for her AAP-CA3 special achievement award! Picture below. Newsletter is long overdue, so let's just get to it!

### Public Health Positions Need To Be Filled

The San Diego Air Pollution Control District Hearing Board is looking for an Alternate Public Health Member, and it would be the back-up for Dr. Dan Spencer (who is one of our pediatricians). **We critically need to help fill this position.** Hearing Board meetings occur on Thursday mornings, twice per month. You would attend when Dr. Spencer cannot. Please contact Dr. Dan Spencer if you know of any doctor or nurse or public health person who could fill this volunteer position. [DanSpencerJones@gmail.com](mailto:DanSpencerJones@gmail.com)

### Premedical Student Advising Updates

In general we've been doing a fairly informal premedical student advising model, with folks pitching in when they can. If any of our group maybe 1-2 pediatricians wants to work more formally with Dr. Vi Nguyen to meet with students, please reach out. This would involve resume reviewing, meeting to review climate and health projects and find ways to help students get their work published and abstracts submitted. Please reach out to Vi.

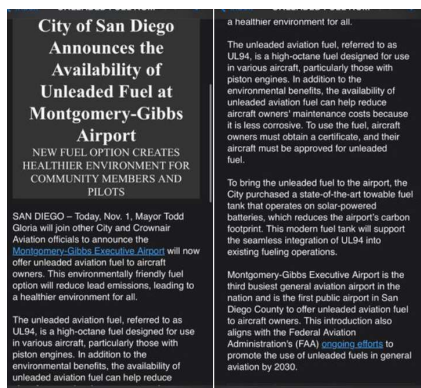
Good luck to everyone who is applying this cycle to medical school! Keep in touch and reach out when you need support. Congratulations and good luck to our youngest members from high school **Aviva Devore, Brendan Toledo** and **Maxwell Lazo** who are applying to college, and were part of multiple projects but primarily the **Extreme Heat and Youth Sports**. Thank you for your hard work and we are



cheering you guys on! Also **Daniel Hernandez** from Bonita Vista High School involved in various projects as well throughout San Diego!

### Enviro-Art 2024: Youth Climate Art Exhibition

Big congratulations to **Eleanor Jung** and her team (lots of help from **Wayne Mai**!) for getting the Enviro-Art 2024 Youth Climate Art Exhibition across the finish line! They successfully organized the art exhibition and awards ceremony and opening reception at **LOS/NR Art Gallery at 7910 Ivanhoe Avenue**. Many thanks to **Dr. Andrei Fodoreanu** and **Michelle Tenggara UCSDSOM MS2** for mentoring the team. They are submitting their work as an abstract on narrative medicine to the **Medical Students for Sustainable Future Climate Health Equity Day** which is in collaboration with Medical Society Consortium (virtual conference in March). Wish them luck in their writing! We already have great ideas for next year, so if you are interesting especially undergraduates in helping email Eleanor at [eljung@ucsd.edu](mailto:eljung@ucsd.edu).



### SDPCA speaking, writing and publishing!!!

Congratulations to **Maya Kalbag UCSD SOM 2026**, **Ben Schleifer MD**, **Katie Balen UCSD Premed**, **Lauren Trinh UCSD Premed**, **Rachel Ireland MD** and **Vi Thuy Nguyen MD** for getting their Pediatric Academic Societies National meeting abstract submitted! Co-authors included our advocacy partners **Serena Alvarez** and **Elizabeth Friedman MD MPH** (from Missouri) ***“Environmental and Medical Advocacy Efforts in Banning Leaded AvGas to Mitigate Detrimental Effects of Airborne Lead Pollution.”*** Wish us luck! Also congrats to **Angela Kim UC Berkeley Premed**, **Emily Nguyen UCLA Premed** for submitting their abstract to the American Pediatric Academic Regional Meeting which is in San Diego. Co-authors include **Aneesah Grayson** and **Bruce Bekkar MD** and **Vi Nguyen MD** ***“Public Health Advisory Council (Orange County and Los Angeles): A Blueprint for Local Climate and Health Legislative Decarbonization Advocacy.”*** Wish them luck! And last but not least the team led by **Melissa Campbell DO, MPH** along with **Maxwell Lazo**, **Aviva Devore**, **Brendan Toledo**, **Ashley Teo BS**, **Prabha Singh MPH**, **Vi Nguyen MD** submitted to PAS National Conference ***“Preventing Extreme Heat Illness in High School Students: A San Diego Example.”*** **Aayush Pagaria UC Berkeley premed** and **Wayne Mai (UCSD 24** and our student director) had led a phenomenal webinar on LGBTQ Rx, and their webinar’s two talks are now on our YouTube channel. Did you even know we had a YouTube channel? ***“Diagnosing Dysphoria”*** presented by **Marianela Jordan MD, FAAP** where she discusses assessing gender dysphoria in pediatric patients in a developmentally appropriate manner. And ***“Sexual/Gender Minority***



***Health from the Primary Care Perspective,***” presented by **Julie Celebi MD and Dr. Rahil Hudda, DO, MPH** discuss appropriate terminology, evidence-based preventive care strategies for LGBTQ+ patients, and the role of the PCP in providing gender-affirming care. Congratulations to this amazing team! I hope they write their experiences up soon. Phew. I think our advocacy group has been doing great on this! All three team are in the process of writing up their abstracts into papers! So excited to see all the teams learn this skillset together.

### **Love Your Wetlands Day!!! REWILD AND AAP**

This will be our fourth year (I think?) Love Your Wetlands Day! **Dr. Ben Schleifer is coordinating so please email him if you have ideas about what to do for the AAP Booth [bjschleifer88@gmail.com](mailto:bjschleifer88@gmail.com).** From our partners “Love Your Wetlands Day is an opportunity to explore UC San Diego’s protected Kendall-Frost Marsh Reserve in Mission Bay while also learning about the importance of coastal wetlands, the climate threats they face, and the ways local communities are working to restore and protect them. Uniquely located in the densely populated urban area, Kendall-Frost Marsh is a valuable laboratory and popular component of the University of California’s Natural Reserve System, a library of ecosystems throughout California representing most of the state’s major habitats. Kendall-Frost Marsh is also the backbone of the newly-approved City park plan with hundreds of acres for restored wetland habitat; come learn more details and how to help. Activities will take place throughout the day and are family friendly (no reservations required; first come, first served at the event)”

### **Current Writing and Research Projects**

**Tijuana Sewage Crisis Public Health Concerns** We have preliminary plans on hosting multi-health system discussions/panels organized by **Julissa Arzave** along with the **Drs. Dickinsons** who are the IB physicians who have been raising concerns for the longest. We also have opportunities to present and raise awareness with some interesting work on “current research/ future lines of inquiry” at Olympian High School and Eastlake High School (bilingual classes). UCSD prehealth students working on this likely will be able to receive independent study credit through UCSD (limited to 2 students) with Dr. Vi Nguyen [jarzave@ucsd.edu](mailto:jarzave@ucsd.edu)

**Indoor Air Pollution Advocacy.** AB-2513 Gas stoves and ranges: warning label passed both houses of the California legislature but was





vetoed by the governor. It is critical to address indoor air pollution including getting rid of gas stoves or at least raising awareness of the dangers of methane to children's house. There is a huge opportunity for premedical students/medical students to fill this gap. I have multiple power points already prepped and handouts. If anyone wants to do this, please reach out to Dr. Nguyen. **Mairella Ngadi UCSD Premed AMWA** did an amazing job already helping prepare an indoor pollution handout for parents of newborns. We can get the information translated in different languages, to reach different audiences. You can become a content expert and begin giving talks. Let me know! Part of decarbonization is to electrify our homes!

**Environmental Health Coalition, "STOP DIESEL" project.** Elida Kocharian UCSD SOM, Laisha Felix UCSD 2023, Miah Selest UCSD 2024 for working with EHC to help advocate for cleaner air and less diesel pollution for the neighborhoods of Barrio Logan and National City. Contact Miah if you are interested in joining in [miah.selest@gmail.com](mailto:miah.selest@gmail.com)

### PHAC OC/LA GROWING WITH SDPCA HELP

Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC) OC/LA for Climate Actions Campaign has launched well. Co-Chairs are **Dr. Vi Nguyen** and **Aneesah Grayson MPP**, but many thanks to **Joanne Mendoza MD/MPH 2026 UCI SOM** and **Cindy Flores UCI SOM** for jumping in. Premedical students Angela Kim (UC Berkeley), Hans Nguyen (Harvard), and Emily Nguyen (UCLA) have been an amazing job with advocacy and working on community power advocacy throughout OC. Contact Angela if you have questions [angela.kim@berkeley.edu](mailto:angela.kim@berkeley.edu)



### H3SD 2025 Updates

We have support of the San Diego Foundation (5K for food!) so many thanks to our UCSD SOM medical student team for securing funding! Save the date for August 9 2025 for H3SD 2025 San Diego's Heat and Human Health Summit! We are looking for 1-2 undergraduate coordinators that can help organize, possibly receive independent study credit through UCSD +/- small stipend.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Jan 14 at 7pm via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/9089809165?pwd=OVM5MDZiVk1tWjZXaHVUbFVKTihtdz09>

Meeting ID: 908 980 9165  
Password: a

